

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 16 have been cancelled without prejudice for consideration in a possible continuation application, and no claims have been added. Claims 2, 3, 9, 13, 14, and 21-24 have been amended. Consequently, claims 2-15 and 17-39 are currently pending and under consideration.

The applicants wish to thank the Examiner for allowing independent claim 39 in item 7 of the Office Action. In view of this allowance, claims 2, 3 and 9 have been amended so as to now depend upon independent claim 39, and dependent claim 13 has been amended to correct the informality cited in item 2 of the Office Action. Therefore, it is believed that independent claim 39 and dependent claims 2-13 are in condition for allowance.

On the Office Action Summary Sheet, claims 3-13 and 15-38 were indicated as being objected to, and besides claim 13, none of these claims were rejected in the body of the Office Action. Although the Office Action does not appear to expressly say so, it has been assumed that claims 3-13 and 15-38 were merely objected to as being dependent a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten into independent form. In the present response, the features of dependent claim 16 have been incorporated into independent claim 14, and claim 16 has been cancelled. Dependent claims 21-24 have been amended to now depend upon claim 14. As a result, it is believed that claims 14-15 and 17-38 are condition for allowance.

It should be understood that the above remarks are not intended to provide an exhaustive basis for patentability or concede the basis for the rejections in the Office Action, but are simply provided to overcome the rejections made in the Office Action in the most expedient fashion.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early notice of allowance

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is earnestly solicited. If after reviewing this amendment the Examiner feels that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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